

- At
CONF
40. (New) The transgenic endothelial cell of claim 38 wherein the Factor VIII protein is a hybrid human/porcine protein.
41. (New) The transgenic endothelial cell of claim 38 wherein the Factor VIII protein is a chimeric human protein.
42. (New) The transgenic endothelial cell of claim 37 wherein the DNA sequence further comprises a selectable marker gene or a reporter gene.
43. (New) The transgenic endothelial cell of claim 37 which is prepared by lipofection.
44. (New) A population of expanded endothelial cells prepared by the method of claim 1.
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Remarks

Claims 37-44 are added. The pending claims are claims 1-44. The new claims are supported by originally-filed claims 1 and 17-23.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider that new claim 44 is a product claim dependent on claim 1 (a process claim), and claims 37-43 are product claims which generally recite the process of claim 1. Thus, it is Applicant's position that new claims 37-44 should be grouped with the claims in Group I (claims 1-14).

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, the claims of Group I (claims 1-14), directed to a process for expanding a population of endothelial cells obtained from peripheral blood. In particular, the process comprises culturing, in contact with a collagen I-coated surface, buffy coat cells obtained from peripheral mammalian blood in the presence of a cell culture medium containing an effective amount of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), and which medium is free of bovine brain extract, so as to expand the population of endothelial cells in the buffy coat cells. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, in view of the remarks below, is respectfully requested.